



Dear Friends & Community of Hartford Street Zen Center,



On behalf of the HSZC Board and Sangha (community), I would like to extend greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all of you, with many thanks for your continuing support. The new year will bring us to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passing of our founder, Issan Dainei. Through his original vision, along with the work and support of many people since, Hartford Street Zen Center has been offering the Dharma in the Castro for more than thirty years. We ask that you help insure the practice of the Buddha Way in the Castro through your generosity. Our board of directors has created an Adopt-a-Month Plan to speed the pay-off of the Hartford Street Zen Center's mortgage on our temple and residential building. Our board members have each made a one month pledge of \$67.50 to be applied directly to the mortgage payment. Our intimate practice helps to bring steadiness and ease, our building and garden are a refuge for many. It is our goal to maintain this sanctuary for generations to come. Please join in our efforts by adopting all or part of a month at www.hszc.org -- a single day is \$2.25, a week only \$15.50. We also most gratefully will accept any other amount you chose to [donate](#).

Beyond the daily schedule of zazen (meditation), our small temple provides service to the wider community by offering the zendo (meditation hall) as meeting space. We were especially honored to bridge past and present hosting the Maitri Compassionate Care volunteer training in October. We also offer our space for weekly Meditation in Recovery and HIV/AIDS Sitting Groups. In 2014 the sangha continued to grow and flourish with a six-week Ango (intensive study period) culminating in a 4-day Winter Light Retreat and Shuso (head monk) Dharma Inquiry Ceremony. The angos schedule included additional periods of zazen, special lectures, meals and teas in addition to our regular routine of morning and evening zazen, weekly study hour and Saturday morning lecture.

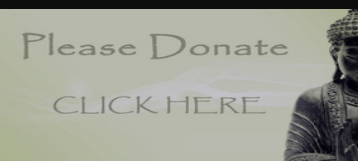
In other yearly news, we had a Sangha Retreat Week at Tassajara Zen Mountain Center. Led by Abbot Myo Lahey we finished a three year study of The Book of Serenity and are now reading The Vimalakirti Sutra. Our library, a wonderful resource for sangha members, has been increased and catalogued through the dedication of our librarian.

While it was the intention of Issan-roshi to offer a place of practice to the gay and lesbian community in the heart of the Castro, his life and practice have spread to include and inspire many others throughout the world. With great gratitude to Issan, our teachers, ancestors and you, Issan-ji continues to share the Buddha Way. Please join us in this most important endeavor.

In gassho,

Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock

President, Hartford Street Zen Center Board of Directors
Hartford Street Zen Center • Issan-ji, 57 Hartford Street, San Francisco, CA 94114



info@hszc.org
415.863.2507

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